

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 713  
By Kurita

A RESOLUTION to honor and thank the women of WAVES  
National Volunteer Unit 94 for their service to the  
United States military during World War II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the "Volunteer State" is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the heroic deeds of Tennessee's military volunteers have been extolled throughout the history of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, countless Tennesseans have served selflessly with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for their heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the members of WAVES National Volunteer Unit 94 are such gallant Tennesseans who are worthy of recognition; they answered duty's call during World War II and hold a position of honor among the long list of American military heroes and heroines from this state; and

WHEREAS, on "December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan"; within days, Germany had joined Japan in declaring war on the United States, and Americans nationwide were flooding military recruiting offices in hopes of serving their nation; and

WHEREAS, in Tennessee as throughout the country, there were countless women who sought, above all, an opportunity to serve; many would serve with honor on the homefront, making invaluable contributions to the war effort and facilitating operations overseas; still others

crossed the oceans to oppose the forces of Hitler and the Emperor of Japan in a more direct manner; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Public Law 689, creating the Women's Reserve of the Navy; empowered by that action, approximately 8,000 officers and 76,000 enlisted WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) were on duty by the war's end, with 8,000 more in training; and

WHEREAS, including Navy Nurse Corps officers, Coast Guard SPARS, and women Marines on duty with the Navy, a total of 132,000 women served in the U.S. Navy at that time; their superior service prompted legislation to be enacted in 1956 designating women as part of the regular United States Navy, a fitting tribute to the WAVES impact on history; and

WHEREAS, as the war raged, these intrepid American women made innumerable sacrifices in defense of their homeland and all that they loved; when the freedom of our nation and of the world was threatened by foreign aggression, they left their normal lives behind to oppose tyranny, defend liberty, and ensure opportunity for future generations; and

WHEREAS, far too often, the contributions of women during World War II have been neglected by history, but all those who served, both men and women, know that the labors of the 350,000 women who donned military uniforms undoubtedly accelerated Allied victory and saved countless lives; and

WHEREAS, more than six decades after the WAVES were born as a unit, we still owe much to the women who joined that estimable force and helped defeat fascism; in the truest sense of the word, the remarkable women of WAVES National Volunteer Unit No. 94 are all heroines: MSgt Celinda Bassett TNAG, Polly Berry WAVES, Mary Bowers U.S. Army, Doris Brumbach WAVES, June Buxkamper WAC, CTM Linda S. Cantrell USN(Ret.), YNC Dorothy J. "Dottie" Carter USN(Ret.), Kathleen "Kathy" Coppings USN, Margery E. Coventry WAVES, Ann A. Doyle USMCR, Mary Gore Dudney WAVES, Marilyn M. Evans USN, Elinor H. "Lin" Folk WAVES, Rozanne E. "Rozz" Folk WAVES, Martha J. Harvey WAVES, PNC Harriett L. Howard USNR(Ret.), Billie V. Jones WAVES, Patricia A. "Pat" Knapp WAVES, Pamela A. "Pam" Lanius WAVES, Christina R. "Chris" Lasseter USMC, YNC Patricia "Pat" Long USN(Ret.), Betsy Mays USN, Dorothy D. "Dot" McMahon WAC/AAC, Mary Nelson WAC, CDR Patricia A. Parks

USN(Ret.), Anna C. Phillips USMCR, Pamela Jo "Pam" Polk USN, Bernice M. Pukenis WAVES, Dorothy "Dotie" Rand WAC, Barbara J. Rauschenberger USN, Christine Rehnke WAC, Ruby L. Rice WAVES, Vickie L. Riggan USN, Ann L. Roberts USMCR, Mary "Eileen" Rotenberry WAVES, Margaret Salm WAC, Ruth Seamon U.S. Army NC, Patricia Ann Sheppard WAVES, Lucille T. Show USMCR, Katherine E. Simpson WAVES, Florence Slavin WAC/AAC, Jean D. Stromp WAVES, Ronda B. Walker WAVES, Jean G. White USAF, Marilyn H. Wicker WAVES, and Lt. Col. Sara Jayne Williams USAF(Ret.); and

WHEREAS, among this illustrious group of women, Commander Patricia A. Parks, USNR(Ret.), serves ably as State Director of WAVES National and Chief Personnelman, PNCHarriet L. Howard, USNR(Ret.), serves with distinction as President of Volunteer Unit 94; and

WHEREAS, the courageous efforts of these patriots shaped the global landscape for decades to follow and contributed in large part to their generation's rightful recognition as the "Greatest Generation" that the United States has ever produced; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to these heroic women who helped to preserve the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the members of WAVES National Volunteer Unit 94 who sacrificed their own safety and concerns during our nation's greatest hour of need and brought honor to the "Volunteer State" through their service during World War II. We express our deepest gratitude to these brave women for their unsurpassed contributions to this state, our nation, and the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.